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EDUCATION AND TRAINING FOR CIVIL DEFENSE AND DISASTER

The panel recently reviewed plans and programs available to assist the civilian population following a major nuclear attack. It is quite clear from the evidence presented that the major problem is the shortage of trained manpower to take care of casualties. Even under the most favorable post attack situations, it is estimated that many millions of civilians would be denied medical care except that which can be provided by friends, relatives, and neighbors with some form of civil defense training. It is also estimated that perhaps 40% of these casualties might survive if given some form of treatment and care outside of the hospital environment.

Various civil defense agencies at the federal and local level have undertaken a number of training programs for the civilian population and indeed approximately two million people are now receiving some form of civil defense training. In addition, some effort has been made to provide additional training through the medical schools. Nevertheless, it is quite clear that the civilian population, either due to apathy or other reasons, has not chosen to take advantage of civil defense training. Experience to date would indicate that simply augmenting the number of courses available on a voluntary basis or

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wider distribution of films and television presentations on civil defense is not likely to increase the number of partially trained civilians to any great extent. It is also unlikely that some form of compulsory training would be acceptable to the population at large. Perhaps one approach to this problem might be to incorporate civilian defense training into the curriculum of secondary schools and colleges throughout the country. Courses could be taught by representatives from local medical societies and civil defense officials as a normal part of the educational program of the student. Such programs might well be incorporated into current efforts to inaugurate physical fitness programs throughout all public schools in the nation. If this were possible, it would provide a manpower pool of considerable size over a very few years with some training in the basic principles of first aid and survival. Increased efforts could also be made to provide further civil defense training to organized groups such as the Scouts, and perhaps the National Guard, military reservists, and to those on active duty in the military services.



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